(c) The value of contraband seized during the last 3 years on the East Coast and Gujarat Coast are given below :—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Gujarat Coast	East Coast
1990	2.00	162.48
1991	6.68	112.63
1992*	10.01*	129.33*

*(Figures are provisional)

Separate figures for Kutch Coast alone are not maintained.

The number of persons arrested throughout the country during the last 3 years of 1990, 1991 and 1992 for being involved in smuggling activities are given below ;—

Year	*No. of persons arrested*
1990	3284
1991	2358
1992	1805 (Prov.)

Separate figures for the East Coast and Kutch are not maintained.

I. T. Defaulters

3513. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN ; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of the first ten defaulters of Income Tax; and

(b) what is the action taken against each of them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) and Ob) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Request for Exemption from Payment of Interest

3514. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested to exempt A.P. State Housing Corporation Ltd. and A.P. Urban Development and Housing Corporation Ltd. engaged in weaker sections' housing from the payment of interest tax on interest chargeable; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter pertaining to exemption of interest on loans to economically weaker sections from interest tax was examined in general, as part of budget exercise. It was decided that there was no need for exempting housing finance corporations from interest tax. The housing corporations can subsidise the weaker sections by charging higher interest from other groups and interest tax exemption is not the appropriate measure for helping the weaker section.

Central Assistance to Bihar

3515. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the fiscal crisis in the State of Bihar is seriously hampering the developmental plans of the State; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to rescue the State from the financial crisis indicating (i) the States share of central assistance released as against the outstanding dues; and (ii) the amount of coal cess released as against the dues and the reasons for not releasing the State's dues in full ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) After discussion on 22-1-1992 between the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Chief Minister of Bihar, Annual Plan of Bihar for 1992-93 was approved at Rs. 2202.73 crores to be financed with State's own resources of Rs. 574.25 crores and Central support of Rs. 1628.48 crores. On the request of the State Government, the Annual Plan has been recently revised downwards from Rs. 2202.73 crores to Rs. 1100 crores as there has been deterioration in State's own resources during tht year.